

Job title	Research Assistant
Grade	5
Salary range	
Staff Group	Research
Department / Institution	Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication

Applications are invited for a research assistant to join the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication. This cross-disciplinary Centre is based in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics but the team is predominantly psychology-focused, and aims to become a leading global hub for the transparent communication and improved public understanding of risk and quantitative evidence. Dr Alexandra Freeman is the Executive Director and Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter is the Chair of the Management Board.

We aim to appoint a research assistant to help with all aspects of the Winton Centre's work, which spans many disciplines, including the communication of risk and evidence in healthcare, the legal sector, government and journalism. The post-holder will conduct literature reviews, contribute to the analysis of quantitative data, and carry out practical experimental work with a diverse range of participants – from members of the public and patients to clinicians and legal professionals. There will be opportunities to contribute to the design of experiments and the writing of scientific papers.

The post-holder will work under the guidance of Dr Alexandra Freeman in the Winton Centre and Dr William Skylark in the Department of Psychology, and will work collaboratively with the other members of the Winton Centre team as well as their external collaborators at other universities and institutions, particularly within the NHS.

Key responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Research Assistant are:

- To undertake literature research – including reviews and data sourcing – under the overall direction of Dr Alexandra Freeman. This will require planning, flexibility and time management to work to agreed deadlines. It will also require a critical approach to literature appraisal and imagination regarding potential sources of data.
- To recruit for and run focus groups, one-on-one interviews, and manage data collection from a range of participants, nationwide, in a number of psychology experiments. This will require excellent personal and communication skills, organizational skills and experience in handling confidential data.
- To contribute to experimental designs, hypotheses and scientific paper writing. This will require a good knowledge of psychological theories and experimental design and excellent English language skills.
- To communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders, including the Winton Centre team, the general public, and professionals in a range of fields.

Required skills and experience

The following skills and experience are essential:

- An excellent first degree in Psychology or a closely allied discipline. A Masters or MPhil in a relevant subject would be desirable.
- An interest in interdisciplinary work
- A willingness to prioritize practical questions and the development of tools and resources
- A knowledge of psychological methods and approaches
- Experience of collecting data from human participants
- Experience of using “standard” inferential statistical tests (e.g., regression, ANOVA) to analyse data from human participants
- Experience of conducting literature reviews and searching academic databases
- Ability to communicate clearly and appropriately with people from diverse backgrounds in English, including writing academic papers in English
- Strong skill and experience in working collaboratively with researchers from different backgrounds
- Ability to work independently on challenging problems
- An understanding of how psychology research is conducted and managed in a university environment

The following skills and experience are desirable:

- Experience of programming computer-based psychology experiments using appropriate software (e.g., R, Python)
- Ability to programme web-based studies and to design web-based tools for risk and evidence communication (e.g., using Qualtrics and javascript)
- Knowledge of the psychology research literature regarding human judgment and decision-making
- Knowledge of research concerning risk and evidence communication
- Experience of recruiting and testing human participants from diverse backgrounds (e.g., children, patients, practitioners)
- Evidence of communicating research findings to non-expert audiences

Terms and Conditions

Location	The Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS), Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, CB3 0WB – but nationwide travel will be expected in order to collect data from participants across the country
Working pattern	Full time
Hours of work	37 hours per week
Length of appointment	The funds for this post are available for 1 year in the first instance
Probation period	6 months
Annual leave	33 days plus Public Holidays

Pension eligibility	Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) Pension scheme details, including information about the legal requirement for the University to automatically enrol its eligible jobholders into a qualifying workplace pension scheme from 1 March 2013, is available at: http://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/
Retirement age	The University does not operate a retirement age for research staff. Full details are available in the University Retirement Policy at: http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/policy/retirement/

Application Process

To submit an application for this vacancy, please click on the link in the 'Apply online' button of the advert published on the University of Cambridge's Job Opportunities page. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account and log in before completing the online application form.

With your application, please upload a full curriculum vitae, and a one page statement of why you feel your skills and interests match the post and your future aspirations and plans. The contact details of two academic referees will be required. Please ensure that your referees are aware that they will be contacted by the Mathematics HR Office Administrator to request that they upload a reference for you to our Web Recruitment System.

The closing date for applications is 17th August 2017. If you have any questions about this vacancy or the application process, please contact LF12865@maths.cam.ac.uk

Academic enquiries can be directed to Dr William Skylark (wjm22@cam.ac.uk).

The date for interviews is expected to be late August.

The University of Cambridge values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity. The Department would particularly welcome applications from women, since women are, and have historically been, underrepresented on our research staff.

The University has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.

General Information

The University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful Universities, with an outstanding reputation for academic achievement and research. It was ranked first in the 2011 QS World University Rankings and its graduates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other university in the world. The University comprises more than 150 departments, faculties, schools and other institutions, plus a central administration and 31 independent and autonomous colleges.

The University and the Colleges are linked in a complex historical relationship. The Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. They admit students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching (supervisions). The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students, determine the syllabi for teaching and conduct research.

There is much more information about the University at <http://www.cam.ac.uk/univ/works/index.html> which we hope you will find helpful.

Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication

Through the generosity of the David and Claudia Harding Foundation, the University of Cambridge has established a new Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication. This Centre will:

- Develop methods for transparent communication of quantitative evidence
- Critically appraise the ways quantitative evidence is communicated to the public, both in the UK and internationally;
- Serve as a collaborative resource for those responsible for public communication; and
- Be a prominent campaigner for best practice, through education, media engagement and training.

The Centre's academic director is Sir David Spiegelhalter, the current Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk, and the Centre is situated in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics in the Centre for Mathematical Sciences. The vision is that the Centre will become a leading global hub for the transparent communication and improved public understanding of risk and quantitative evidence. With partners, especially the Harding Centre in Berlin, it will form an international core for the propagation of best practice in health, education, the legal professions, government and the media.

The Centre is physically located within the Statistical Laboratory of the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. The Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS) is one of the two mathematics departments in Cambridge, the other being the Department of Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics. Together with the Isaac Newton Institute, the two departments occupy the Centre for Mathematical Sciences (CMS), which is a beautiful development west of the city centre and may be viewed at <https://www.dpmms.cam.ac.uk/about/photos/>

Although the Centre is based in DPMMS, the Research Assistant will also have a very close attachment to the Department of Psychology. The department was created in 2012 following the merger of the former Departments of Social and Developmental Psychology and Experimental Psychology and is celebrated for its teaching and research into topics including but not limited to: sensory perception, attention, memory, language, social and cognitive development, social psychology and personality, psychopathology and psychosocial adjustment, computational models of psychological processes, associative learning, animal cognition and behaviour, and drug addiction. For more details relating to the Department of Psychology, see www.psychol.cam.ac.uk.

The Faculty holds an Athena SWAN Bronze award for promoting women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine and supports the aims of the Charter Scheme and the LMS Good Practice Scheme in seeking to advance women's careers in mathematical sciences. New staff are mentored and offered advice on career and promotion opportunities.

What the University can offer you

One of our core values at the University of Cambridge is to recognise and reward our staff as our greatest asset. We realise that it's our people who have built our outstanding reputation and that we will only maintain our leading position in the academic world by continuing to attract and retain talented and motivated people. If you choose to come and work with us, you will find that we offer:

- **Excellent benefits** – You will be eligible for a wide range of competitive benefits and services, including numerous discounts on shopping, health care, financial services and public transport. We also offer defined benefits pension schemes and tax-efficient bicycle, car lease and charity-giving schemes.

We will help you balance your home and work life by providing you with generous annual leave entitlement and procedures for requesting a career break or flexible working arrangements if you need them. You will also have

access to a range of well-being support services, including in-house Occupational Health and Counselling services. If you have childcare responsibilities, you may also benefit from the enhanced maternity/adoption pay, two nurseries and a holiday play scheme that we provide.

We are keen to welcome new employees from other parts of the UK and other countries to Cambridge. If you will be relocating to Cambridge on a centrally funded appointment of two years or more, you may be eligible for our relocation expenses scheme. The University Accommodation Service (<http://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>) will also be available to help you find suitable rented accommodation and to provide advice on renting arrangements and local facilities, if required. In addition, certain academic and academic-related appointments are eligible for the Shared Equity Scheme which offers financial assistance with the purchase of living accommodation.

- **A welcoming and inclusive environment** - We will help you settle into your new role and working environment through a central University induction event, local induction activities and our online induction package. Where appropriate to your role, you will have a probation period to provide a supportive framework for reviewing your progress and discussing your training and development needs.

If you are relocating to Cambridge, you and your family will be welcome to attend the Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group, which provides an opportunity to find out more about Cambridge and meet other people new to the area.

You can find further details of the benefits, services and opportunities we offer can be found in our CAMBens Employee Benefits web pages at <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/pay-benefits/cambens-employee-benefits>. A range of information about living and working in Cambridge is also available to you within the University's web pages at <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/> and <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-staff/information-staff>.

Equality of Opportunity at the University

We are committed to a proactive approach to equality, which includes supporting and encouraging all under-represented groups, promoting an inclusive culture and valuing diversity. We make selection decisions based on personal merit and an objective assessment against the criteria required for the post. We do not treat job applicants or members of staff less favourably than one another on the grounds of sex (including gender reassignment), marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability (including HIV status), sexual orientation, religion, age or socio-economic factors.

We have various diversity networks to help us progress equality; these include the Women's Staff Network, the Disabled Staff Network, the Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Staff Network. In addition, we were ranked in the top 100 employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) staff in Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index 2013 and we hold an Athena SWAN silver award at organisation level for promoting women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine.

We are supportive of staff with caring responsibilities, such as through our flexible working, career break and returning carers schemes. We encourage individuals to include details of any breaks in employment due to caring responsibilities in applications for employment so that these can be taken into consideration in assessments made, where appropriate.

Information if you have a Disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities and we are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so, and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>.

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, Ms Julie Bazin in the HR Office, who is responsible for recruitment to this position, on 01223 764289 or by email on

hr-office@maths.cam.ac.uk or by post to Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, Wilberforce Road, CAMBRIDGE CB3 0WB. Alternatively, you may contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department you are applying to via hrenquiries@admin.cam.ac.uk.